

## INDEPENDENCE IN POLITICS.

## The Relation of the Editor to the Candidate for Official Place.

## A Plea for Honesty in American Politics and for Honest Politicians.

The following able and logical address was delivered at St. Charles, Mo., May 23, before the North-west Missouri Press association by W. T. Thurmond, editor of the Troy, Mo., Herald:

## A POTENTIAL FACTOR.

The relation of the editor to the candidate seems necessarily to involve the relation of the editor to the state, the government, the body politic, that organized power which through legislation and judicial and executive functions protects life, liberty, property and promotes the peace, good order, prosperity and happiness of the whole people. As to the principles, methods, ways and means by which men are nominated and elected to office, the editor is, or ought to be, a potential factor. In his position he weekly and daily speaks to hundreds and thousands as an advocate, counselor and censor, charged with a very high responsibility because of the large number of minds and hearts he influences for good or evil. No more than the teacher or the preacher in the pulpit should he be partial as to persons and regardless of actual merits and fitness of those who are to make, interpret and execute the laws for the weal or woe of the citizens. He must have the

## COURAGE OF HIS CONVICTIONS

as to public duty if he shall acquire himself as a true man and a faithful citizen in his influential position. He cannot be a petty factionist or selfish intriguer for his own personal advantage, nor even his own party's advantage. The safety of the people should be his supreme law, from which there can be no appeal nor deviation. It should plainly appear to all who read his paper that his support is given solely upon his conscientious convictions of right and duty, despite his mere selfish interests.

Then is he a tower of strength to his party and his country. Then will his influence be in the direction of elevated statesmanship and wise, just and efficient government. From his position and place of study and observation he has the knowledge and the power largely to make or mar the fortunes of the people, to build up and strengthen free institutions, or to weaken, undermine and destroy them. The venality and

## LACK OF MORAL COURAGE

of the editors of the land are in a large measure responsible for the widespread and permeating corruption of the body-politic and the decline of that popular intelligence and virtue that are essential conditions for permanent self-government according to the idea of that grand apostle of liberty, Thomas Jefferson.

The editor's conscience should be the property of no man or set of men, no faction or party. That is to say, rather than support a corruptionist, or a man nominated by false and fraudulent methods inconsistent with, and subversive of free government, he would sink the last dollar of his property or sell out at any sacrifice to save his manhood and preserve his sense of citizenship duty and responsibility. Does some one say this is too severe a test? Then I ask how much too severe is it? By what rule will you fix the limitations? It is simply the touch-stone of Truth and Honor and Liberty. If too severe for the editor, then it is to severe for the judge on the bench, too severe for the voter, too severe for the preacher, and if too severe for all these and duty may be relinquished by one and all to the varying and uncertain sense of expediency, policy, then Despotism already is casting its dark shadows upon us and it is only a question of time when our boasted government of the people, by the people and for the people becomes

## A MELANCHOLY FAILURE.

Said the Revolutionary fathers on behalf of resistance to Kingly tyranny and in support of self-government and the inalienable rights of men, "we pledge our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honors." If we pretend to be worthy sons of noble sires what is our faith, our pledge and our work to preserve our priceless heritage to coming generations? Was all patriotism, virtue and heroism exhausted then? Is it not the inexorable law, that only intelligence, virtue and courage shall be rewarded with and enjoy freedom? It is a potent fact to every intelligent and honest mind that the machine politicians, office holders and office seekers, are organized into close corporations in both parties and their despotic sway is crushing out individual independence and using the mass of voters as subservient tools, subverting self-government by the theory and practice that the end, parts success, justifies the means, any means whatever that are available.

Who will question the fact that a large number of editors "bend the pregnant hinges of the knee" to candidates

## WHO ARE UNPRINCIPLED BOSSES?

Thus Journalism is infinitely degraded. Its beggarly estate is enough to stir a fever in the blood of age and make infant sinews strong as steel. Where is its dignity, its manhood, its consistent, coherent, cohesive virtue and cooperative power to protect itself from the allurements of money and plunder that it may exist statesmanship, patriotism, honesty among officials and among the people?

Mr. Cleveland in his inaugural address significantly alluded to that large class of men who "impudently interpose between the offices and the people." These are they who exercise a vicious control over the press and make it necessary to grievously confess that many editors are mere figureheads and not what they ought to be, powerful factors in free government. They are servitors for the vain and self-important seekers after notoriety and office and spoils. They are not discriminating as to merit. They are not building up character. They are not promoting manhood and patriotism as the way and hope of society, church and state.

If public office is a sacred public trust, so is the position of the editor who has so much influence in filling office a sacred public trust. Among editors there is

## NEED OF ORGANIZATION.

There is need of a code of ethics. There is need of a manly and moral discipline. Journalism can and ought to be the noblest of all the professions. Exalted to and maintaining the high station it ought to occupy, it would elevate all the other professions. The editor by no means should be a dictator, but by all means should be an advocate and defender of honest and fair methods for selecting the standard bearers of his party. Generally, almost entirely, unless there is a strong cause for exception, if the candidates come before the people in a canvass the editor should leave the people to select as between candidates of the same party, without any officious or super-serviceable disposition on his part for one in office or seeking office that he may personally prefer.

This interference smacks of bossism and of tyranny and the people ought to resent it. It is discourteous and unprofessional. To say that Mr. So-and-So should not offer for the nomination, for it may injure the party, is exceedingly impertinent. It seeks to forestall public opinion, snub and cut off from a hearing, men who have high qualities and commanding merits, who at least have an unquestionable and inviolable right to respectful and unprejudiced hearing.

## I AM A DEMOCRAT

and believe in a democratic spirit in these matters and detest any sign of a despotic spirit that would use and abuse the position of editor to take advantage of a candidate in this way. All candidates should be shown equal courtesy by editors, the latter only being bound in honor to insist on honest, fair methods of nomination, except, of course, they cannot be silent, but must expose any man and all men known to them to be unworthy of public trust, that the people who may be ignorant in the premises may be protected from imposture.

Money is getting to be too potent in affecting the relation between the editor and the candidate. The long pursued man is too apt to have undue advantage of the man of inferior financial resources, but superior character and brains. Unless the press comes to the rescue in our demoralized conditions and makes better candidates and better nominating and election methods, is there a rational hope of the long survival of free institutions? I would like to catch hands with, greet and congratulate any and all of the editorial brethren whose aspirations and inspirations rise above the sordid and groveling views and practices of the times to the height of great argument for INDEPENDENT AND PATRIOTIC JOURNALISM.

within party lines to the end of pure politics and the advancement of the just mission and grand destiny of a glorious civilization and a regenerated and regenerated noble Republic, for by the Eternal I will not support a corruptionist for any office in behalf of any man or set of men, any faction or party. All hail to the editor whose well known personal dignity and sense of honor make it impossible that any candidate should approach him with any suggestion of "fat" or "oil" or prospective appointment of himself or friends to office, in plain English bribery.

In this day of newspapers and magazines the press is pre-eminently the palladium of Liberty. Let this agency and medium generally come under the baneful influence of the cohesive power of public plunder, then begins the woeful paling of the intellectual fires of the spirit and genius of our free institutions. The candidate should have a wholesome fear of the criticism and exposure of such an editor of any crookedness by which he seeks to contravene the right of his fellow citizens to freely and fairly express their will and pleasure. To illustrate:

## LOOKOUT, FRAUDULENT CANDIDATE.

Suppose in a given district it has happened that a man has been nominated to congress by means and methods in violation of all precedents and in a manner that is really subversive of the suffrage rights of the people. At once every paper of the party in the district denounces the outrage and demands another convention, or if this is impracticable, denounces the candidate as unworthy of support, urges every member of the party to scratch his name that a lesson may be taught and the principle of self-government enforced. Through just defeat the party is disciplined, the political atmosphere is cleared and the party made stronger than ever with just and honorable methods in vogue and corruption effectually squelched. On the other hand, if there is toleration and support, if a beastly majority is used in abnegation of the very essential principles of self-government, then the doctrine of might makes right is proclaimed and moral irresponsibility is plain to all and the pretense of superior virtue in the party is as sounding brass and tinkling cymbals. In this there is unmanly and uncitizenlike compromise of principle and

## FATAL INJURY TO THE PARTY.

For it is necessary for citizens to understand and appreciate that in the economy of the Almighty Ruler of

the universe retribution must as inevitably follow the violation of moral law as it does the violation of physical law. "How secret art thou who dwellest in the highest heavens in silence, O thou only great God, sprinkling with an unwearied providence certain penal blindnesses upon such as have unbidden desires." As Emerson says: "This is that ancient doctrine of Nemesis, who keeps watch in the universe and lets no offense go unchastised. The Furies, they said, are attendants on Justice, and if the sun in heaven should transgress his path they would punish him."

The press can be made a terror to evil doers and honest politics can be brought back if editors will do their duty as honorable, high minded true citizens. A pure ballot, a pure press. By these signs shall we conquer the powers of darkness that environ us and make this republic an enduring, resplendent monument of self-government and the highest civilization ever endearing the memories of the fathers and cheering the hearts of all the struggling, aspiring sons of men throughout the teeming earth and under the whole broad, glowing expanse of the starry heavens.

## Circuit Court.

Louis Deutsch, vs. H. H. Dix; damages; affidavit filed for appeal. Defendant has ten days to file \$2000 bond, and leave given defendant to file bill of exception by August 1st. Appeal granted to Kansas City court of appeals.

S. B. Cohen vs. W. P. King, jr.; replevin; bond filed and approved.

Kate C. Powell vs. Chas. H. Powell; divorce; motion sustained and \$100 ordered to be paid by defendant to plaintiff by July 1st.

W. H. Mason vs. Sarah C. Mason; divorce; dismissed for want of prosecution at the cost of plaintiff.

State vs. Henry Carr et al.; taxes; judgment against land in petition for \$49.70.

Same vs. W. M. Collins; taxes; judgment for \$32.12.

Same vs. Jas. M. Jones; taxes; judgment for \$495.73.

Same vs. Lucy Blocker; taxes; judgment for \$30.09.

Same vs. Fred Wilson; taxes; judgment for \$47.82.

Same vs. Levi A. McVey; taxes; judgment for \$56.78.

Same vs. Nat G. Brown; taxes; judgment for \$188.28.

Mokaska Coffee Company vs. Bruns Harbaugh & Allen account; judgment for plaintiff, \$62.25.

State ex rel John McGinley collector vs. Mathew G. Keir, taxes from 1882 to 1889, judgment for \$39.19.

Warren V. Galbreath vs. Jennie Rogers; special taxes. Defendant files bill of exception affidavit and bond; appeal granted to Kansas City court of appeal.

Warren V. Galbreath vs. Elizabeth Ewart; special taxes. Defendant files bill of exception affidavit and bond; appeal granted to Kansas City court of appeal.

Warren V. Galbreath vs. Nellie J. Turnham; special taxes. Defendant files bill of exception affidavit and bond for appeal granted to Kansas City court of appeal.

T. B. Anderson vs. George Billas; special taxes. Bill of exception filed and ten days given to file bond for \$490. Appeal granted to Kansas City court of appeal.

T. B. Anderson vs. H. C. Sinnett; special taxes. Defendant files bill of exception and bond, appeal granted to Kansas City court of appeals.

T. B. Anderson vs. James S. Rogers; special taxes. Defendant files bill of exception and bond, appeal granted to Kansas City court of appeal.

Warren Galbreath vs. Buckhart Ranch; special taxes, same as above.

Warren V. Galbreath vs. James S. Rogers; same as above.

Warren V. Galbreath vs. Isaac Wright; same as above.

Warren V. Galbreath vs. B. T. Reese; same as above.

Warren V. Galbreath vs. S. A. Price; same as above.

Warren V. Galbreath vs. Walter Stephens; same as above.

Warren V. Galbreath vs. Richard Roe; same as above.

Warren V. Galbreath vs. Mary Dean; same as above.

Eugene Alexander vs. John R. Clopton, R. F. Hubbard et al.; judgment for \$220.35.

Court adjourned for this term. Patronize Weise's barber shop and bath rooms, 220 Ohio street.

## Counting The People.

The eleventh census of the United States will be taken in the month of June. The census enumerators will begin their work on Monday, June 2, and will visit every house, and ask questions concerning every person and every family in the United States. The questions that will be asked, call for the name of every person residing in the United States on the first day of June, with their sex and age, and whether white, black, mulatto, quadroon, octoroon, or Chinese, Japanese, or Indian. Inquiry will be made also of every person as to whether they are single, married, widowed, or divorced, and, if married, whether married during the census year. The place of birth of each person, and the place of birth of the father and mother of each person, will also be called for, as well as a statement as to the profession, trade or occupation followed and the number of months unemployed during the census year. For all persons ten years of age or over a return must be made by the enumerator as to the number able to read and write, and also the number who can speak English. For those who can not speak English the particular language or dialect spoken by them will be ascertained. For children of school age, also, the number of months they attended school will be recorded by the census enumerators. In the case of mothers an inquiry will be made as to the number of children they have had, and the number of those children living at the present time. This inquiry is to be made of all women who are or have been married, including all who are widows or have been divorced. Foreign-born males of adult age, that is, 21 years of age or over, will be asked as to the number of years they have been in the United States, and whether they are naturalized or have taken out naturalization papers. Of the head of each family visited the question will be asked as to the number of persons in the family, and whether his home is owned or hired; also, if owned, whether the home is free from mortgage incumbrance. If the head of the family is a farmer, similar inquiries will be made concerning the ownership of the farm. In addition to these inquiries, all of which are made of the population schedule, the law under which the census is taken makes provision for special inquiries concerning such of the population as may be mentally or physically defective in any respect, that is, insane, feeble-minded, deaf, blind, or crippled, or who may be temporarily disabled by sickness, disease, or accident at the time of the enumerator's visit. Certain special inquiries will also be made concerning inmates of prisons and reformatories and of charitable and benevolent institutions. Besides this, a statement will be called for concerning all persons who have died during the census year, giving their name, age, sex, occupation and cause of death.

This official count of the people comes but once in ten years, and every family and every person should consider it to be their duty to answer the questions of the census enumerators willingly and promptly, so that definite and accurate information may be gained concerning the 65,000,000 people living within the bounds of this great country.

No one can have a clear rosy complexion with bile in the blood—Bile Beans will remove bile and cleanse the system.

Messerly &amp; Meuschke's

GRAND

Clearing Sale!

This Week.

We have to much stock on hand and not enough money and are willing to exchange, and this week we will just wipe out profit and give Sedalia a picnic and hope you will attend and help carry off the bargains. We must sell the goods and make room for fall stock.

One case of figured Lawns 3 1/2 cents.  
One case figured Challies 5 cents.  
Two cases standard Prints 5 cents.  
200 dozen ladies' Fast Black Hose at 10c.

Fifty dozen ladies' Fast Black Hose (not warranted) at 5c a pair.

About 75 Beaded Wraps

at your own price, or almost given away. Bring \$2.00 and get a Daisy all silk lined, nicely beaded on Gros Grain Silk worth twice the price.

Look out for our sale on Silk Sun Shades and Parasols, Fans, Rushings, Handkerchiefs etc.

## SPECIAL.

Twenty-five pieces double width Dress Goods in light colors at 16 1/2 cents per yard, assorted colors and figures. Attend our clearing sale this week, bring your friends.

Messerly &amp; Meuschke

NO. 232,

N. W. Cor. Ohio and Third Sts.

N. B.—Our store will be open till 8 o'clock every night after this date, "rain or shine."

## He Had His Say.

Hon. Jos. Walters, of Topeka, Kansas, was in the city Friday on private business. In conversation with a BAZOO reporter, he said: "You have a good town here and are getting it to look like a place of 50,000 inhabitants. I am personally acquainted with Judge D. C. Mettler and for 'go ahead' he has no equal. He will not only build this electric road but will make it pay. In business affairs he is a hummer, but when it comes to politics he is simply— Just get him interested in moving the state capital to Sedalia and you may bank on it that Sedalia will be the future capital of Missouri." Patronize Weise's barber shop and bath rooms, 220 Ohio street.

## Blaire's Court.

Four Boys were arrested yesterday for trespassing. They had been in the habit of going into the neighbors' yard and helping themselves to flowers. The annoyance was tolerated until yesterday when warrants were issued for their arrest.

They all plead guilty and were fined \$1.00 and cost.

## Police Court.

The only cases that were before Judge Halstead, yesterday morning, were the nuisance cases which were continued until next Saturday morning. The continuance was granted to allow a petition to be presented to the council Monday night. Patronize Weise's barber shop and bath rooms, 220 Ohio street.

## GOING OUT OF BUSINESS.

All of My Stock Must be Sold by July 1st.

 Grand Closing Out Sale Will Commence Monday Morning, May 26th

The stock consisting of Hats, Flowers, Ribbons and Laces will be sold regardless of cost. Call and get prices and you will see that I mean what advertise. Respectfully,

MRS. M. E. HUTCHESON, nee Whitehead.